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Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Modifications to NOM-158-SCFI-2003 on Ham Denomination

2003

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Report Highlights:

On December 12,, 2003, the Secretariat of Economy (SE) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") modifications to NOM-158-SCFI-2003 on ham denomination. Key to this modification is the extension of the enforcement date from December 12, 2003 to March 1, 2004.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

Introduction: This report summarizes an official standard ("Norma Oficial") published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on December 12, 2003.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: On December 12, 2003, the Secretariat of Economy (SE) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") modifications to the final standard for the denomination of ham. Based on a preliminary analysis, it appears that U.S. exports to Mexico will not be impeded by this rule. The objective of this official Mexican standard establishes the commercial classifications of the different types of ham that are sold in the Mexican territory. It also establishes physical-chemical, microbiological and organoleptic specifications that these products must have, and the test methods to demonstrate compliance and commercial information that their packaging must contain.

Title: Resolution that modifies the Official Mexican Standard NOM-158-SCFI-2003, Ham denomination and commercial classification, physical-chemical, microbiological, organoleptic specifications, commercial information and test methods.

Type of Rule: Final

Products affected: Ham made from pork or turkey meat.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: December 12, 2003

2. Effective Date: March 1, 2003

Modified information:

Specifications

Technical specifications on Ham

TABLE II

Commercial Classification	% PLG* Minimum	% Fat Maximum	% Humidity Maximum	% Added Protein	% carragenin maximum	% Starch Maximum
Extrafine	18	6	75	0	1,5	0
Fine	16	6	76	2	1,5	0
Preferential	14	8	76	2	1,5	5
Commercial	12	10	76	2	1,5	10
Economical	10	10	76	2	1,5	10

Note1: *PLG – Fat-free protein.

Note 2: Added protein and starch may be employed mixed, as long as the total percentage of said mixture does not surpass the maximum permissible for each one of them.

10 Labeling, Packaging and Packing

The only change to the labels of the subject products are the following:

- A)
- B)
- C) Net contents or the legend: For retail sales, weigh in presence of consumer.
- D)
- E)
- F)
- G)
- H)
- I)
- J)

10.2 Products packed at sales point.

Should indicate the commercial name, brand or manufacturers symbol and/or importer, net contents and date of packing or consume preferably by or expiry date and any indication that would allow the traceability of the product.

Comment:

Mexico's pork industry has been pressing the government of Mexico to implement these changes for some time now. The changes are not expected to have any significant impact on trade. Mexican consumers are expected to continue to choose hams on the basis of price and quality, which should lead to continued demand for cheaper hams that use turkey meat.

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Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.fas-la.com/mexico> or visit our headquarter home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.se.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.